

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-15 are pending in this application. Claims 7-9, 22-27, 34-40, and 53-55 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 10-13 are amended. As amended Claims 10-13 are supported by the original specification,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 22, 24, 25, 27, 34-40, 53, and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kitamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,463, herein Kitamura) in view of Sugishima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,797,706, herein Sugishima); and Claims 8, 11, 14, 23, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kitamura and Sugishima in view of Nakai (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,342).

With regard to the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Sugishima, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 10 recites in part, “the first image forming apparatus is configured to display in a link copy mode only keys for selection of usable functions in the link copy mode after the link copy mode has been selected, the usable functions being functions which both the first image formation apparatus and the second image formation apparatus are able to execute.”

The outstanding Office Action concedes at page 5, lines 19-22 that Kitamura does not teach that keys that permit unusable functions are not displayed after the link copy mode is selected. The outstanding Office Action cites Sugishima as describing this element at page 6, lines 1-13. However, column 17, line 46 to column 18, lines 51 of Sugishima describes an exemplary embodiment where all functions are displayed for each printer. The exemplary

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 55, lines 6-17 and Figures 4 and 8.

printer #1 includes A3 and A4 paper. The exemplary printer #3 includes A4, B4, and A4R size paper.² However, Sugishima describes that *all* of the paper sizes for *all* the printers are listed as available, rather than just A4, which is the only paper size available to both printers.³ Thus, it is respectfully submitted that not only does Sugishima not teach or suggest “the first image forming apparatus is configured to display in a link copy mode *only keys for selection of usable functions* in the link copy mode after the link copy mode has been selected, the usable functions being functions which both the first image formation apparatus and the second image formation apparatus are able to execute,” but in fact teaches contrary to this element. Accordingly, as neither of the cited references teach or suggest “a first image forming apparatus” as recited in Claim 10, Claim 10 (and Claims 11 and 12 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Kitamura in view of Sugishima.

As Claim 13 recites similar elements to Claim 10, Claim 13 (and Claims 14 and 15 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Kitamura in view of Sugishima for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 10.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 11 and 14 as unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Sugishima and further in view of Nakai, it is noted that Claims 11 and 14 are dependent from Claims 10 and 13, respectively, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Nakai does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Kitamura and Sugishima. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 11 and 14 are patentable over Kitamura in view of Sugishima and further in view of Nakai.

²See Sugishima, column 17, lines 48-57.

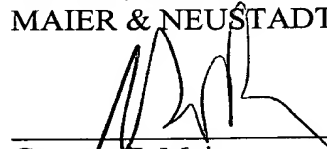
³See Sugishima, column 18, lines 24-46.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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